

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00616 051451Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-05 FDRE-00 DHA-02 SCSE-00

SCA-01 FBOE-00 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00

OMB-01 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2378

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 0616

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 4 EARTHQUAKE HONDURAN DAMAGE REPORTEDLY NOT
EXTENSIVE

1. AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ, AID DIRECTOR KIMBALL AND CONSUL HANCOCK
SHOULD RETURN FROM A RECONNAISSANCE OF NORTH COAST AREA LATE
THIS AFTERNOON. PENDING THEIR REPORT AND INFORMATION BEING
SOUGHT FROM OTHER OUTLYING COMMUNITIES ALONG GUATEMALAN FRONTIER
THE FOLLOWING IS THE UNVERIFIED REPORT OF DAMAGE IN HONDURAS:
NO DEATHS AS YET REPORTED. SOME INJURIES REPORTED, BUT UNCON-
FIRMED. STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN TEGUCIGALPA MINOR OR NIL.
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN SAN PEDRO SULA INCLUDES WALLS CRACKED IN
VARIOUS PLACES AT LA MESA AIRPORT, BUT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED. THREE LARGE BUILDINGS IN SAN PEDRO
SULA--THE BANCO ATLANTIDA, THE GRAN SULA HOTEL AND THE RIVERA
BUILDING SUSTAINED STRUCTURAL DAMAGE WHICH IS UNDER INVESTIGATION
AS TO EXTENT. IN PUERTO CORTEZ SEVERAL DOZEN HOMES REPORTED
DAMAGED. DOCK AREA LIKEWISE DAMAGED WITH SETTLING OF A MAJOR
PIER REPORTED. THE OIL REFINERY THERE IS CLOSED FOR A
PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF POSSIBLE DAMGE TO WATER
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 00616 051451Z

INTAKE SYSTEM.

2. REPORTS FROM SANTA ROSA DE COPAN AND OTHER COMMUNITIES ALONG GUATEMALAN FRONTIER ARE FRAGMENTARY AND PROBABLY INACCURATE BUT MORE SEVERE DAMAGE MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS FRONTIER REGION.

3. AS OF FOUR P.M. LOCAL TIME NEW AND STILL UNCONFIRMED REPORTS STATE RAIL BED DAMAGE OCCURRED PUERTO CORTES AREA. HOMES DAMAGED IN SANTA ROSA DE COPAN. IN BOTH SANTA ROSA AND SANTA BARBARA THERE WERE DAMAGES TO CHURCH TOWERS. THE BRIDGE AT OMANITA MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED AND PRECAUTION IS BEING EXERCISED IN ITS USE. FINALLY, MINOR TREMBLES CONTINUE TO BE FELT IN THE SAN PEDRO SULA AREA.
SANCHEZ

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